



Advisory 2020-009: Funding Operations and Maintenance of Public Target Ranges

June 2, 2020

What funds can be used for paying Operations and Maintenance costs for public target ranges on State lands?

Discussion: Operation and maintenance (O&M) at public target ranges that are located on State fish and wildlife agency-owned wildlife management areas or lands managed under the control of the agency are considered eligible using funds at 16 U.S.C. 669c(b) (Traditional Wildlife Restoration). This is in addition to being eligible using funds at 16 U.S.C. 669c(c) (Basic Hunter Education/R3) or 16 U.S.C. 669h-1 (Enhanced Hunter Education/R3). These public target range projects on State owned and/or controlled lands are supported as a part of the facility when using Traditional Wildlife Restoration funds and is allowable provided it meets the definition of eligible activities listed under 50 CFR 80.50(a)(7) Operate or maintain: (i) Projects that the State fish and wildlife agency completed under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (which would include projects funded under Basic or Enhanced Hunter Education); or (ii) Facilities that the agency acquired or constructed with funds other than those authorized under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act if these facilities are necessary to carry out activities authorized by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act.

This is also supported by the 1945 amendment to 16 U.S.C. that states: "Maintenance of wildlife-restoration projects established under the provisions of this chapter shall be the duty of the States in accordance with their respective laws. Beginning July 1, 1945, the term "wildlife-restoration project," as defined in section 669a of this title, shall include maintenance of completed projects. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, funds apportioned to a State under this chapter may be expended by the State for management (exclusive of law enforcement ~~and public relations~~) of wildlife areas and resources." (Note, public relations prohibition was removed in a 2019 amendment).

Advisory: Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs associated with public target ranges are eligible consistent within grant objectives for State-owned lands or where the State agency has management control (e.g., State-leased and controlled land). O&M at public target ranges are not required to have a nexus to hunter education programs (see amendment at 16 U.S.C. 669g(b)(1) per Pub. L. 116-94). Public target range O&M requires a 75% Federal/25% non-Federal match rate and is considered eligible using funds at :16 U.S.C. 669c(c) (Basic Hunter Education/R3), 16 U.S.C. 669h-1 (Enhanced Hunter Education/R3), or 16 U.S.C. 669c(b) (Traditional Wildlife Restoration).